



A VIEW FROM FEW

AN ORGANIZATION FOR OPPORTUNITY AND EQUALITY
FOR WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

SPACE COAST CHAPTER, KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FL
<http://www.ksc.nasa.gov/groups/few/>

JUNE 2005

SPACE COAST CHAPTER, FEW 2004 – 2005 Officers and Committees

President	Dawn Partlow
Finance	Johanna Velasquez
Newsletter Editor	Muzette Fiander
NTP/RTP Planners	Sandy Eliason
Nominations	Karin Biega Connie Dobrin Muzette Fiander
Parliamentarian	Charlotte Becker
President Elect	Sandy Eliason
Seminar	Vickie Hall Barbara Powell Sandy Eliason Cindy Gooden Debbie Ward
Compliance	
Webmaster	
Vice President	Jean Grenville
Programs/Publicity	
Diversity	
Community Outreach	Aneta Ott
Environmental	Martha Carroll
Treasurer	Clara Anderson
Membership	Ellie Miller
Sunshine	Vivian Andreasson
Secretary	Marlene Satterthwaite
Scholarships	Betty Valentine
Legislative	Marie Argana
Historian	Jean Grenville
Past President	Barbara Powell
Nat'l VP for Training	Becky Fasulo
Nat'l Treasurer	Clara Anderson
Nat'l Bylaws & Resolutions	Karin Biega
Regional Awards	Barbara Powell
Regional Nominations/ Elections	Vickie Hall
Regional Secretary	Jean Grenville

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dawn Partlow

Thank you to all of those who attended our May 18 Chapter Business Meeting including new members Charmel Anderson, Helen Kane and Nancy Welsh. We hope you will continue to participate in our activities in order to learn about our organization. The Officers and Committee Chairs gave a detailed report of their activities for the year and there was a good discussion of what we can do to improve our legislation participation. Karin Biega announced the 2005 – 2006 Officers and Nominations Chair who are:

President - Sandy Eliason
President Elect – Jean Grenville
Vice President - Marlene Satterthwaite
Secretary - Muzette Fiander
Treasurer – Johanna Velasquez
Nominations Chair – Aneta Ott

These new officers will be installed Tuesday, June 21, 2005, at the Lobster Shanty in Satellite Beach. We hope you will all plan to attend this great networking event to support our new officers and to congratulate our yearly award winners. It is always a special event for the Chapter.

Thank you for all the support you have provided to me this past year. You all are a true team that support and guide one another. I look forward to continue being a member of this chapter and working with each and every one of you. Being a member of this chapter has been very rewarding for me and I encourage the entire membership, including our newest members, to become involved in the month to month activities of our chapter. It's the best

way to learn all about the organization at our local Chapter, Southeast Region, and National levels.

Once again thank you all for your continuous efforts and support of the chapter throughout the year.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS REPORT

Karin Biega, Chair

The new Space Coast Chapter officers for 2005-2006 are, President - Sandy Eliason, President-Elect - Jean Grenville, Vice President - Marlene Satterthwaite, Secretary - Muzette Fiander, Treasurer - Joanna Velasquez, and Nominations Officer - Aneta Ott with Arden Belt and Connie Dobrin serving that committee with Aneta.

The installation and awards banquet will be held Tuesday, June 21, at the Lobster Shanty in Satellite Beach. Festivities will begin at 6PM; following an excellent meal, the program will begin. Look for more information and an invitation coming shortly.



SUNSHINE

Celebrating birthdays in June:

Mavis Timmons	June 1
Cassandra Getter	June 7

Happy Birthday!

If you notice anyone missing please email Muzette Fiander at Muzette.B.Fiander@nasa.gov

FLORIDA HISTORY AND CULTURE



Submitted by Vickie Hall

Name Origins of Florida Places
Florida's cities and counties are named for influential residents, Indian words used to

describe the area, and former governors. I have found these to be interesting so I'll include a few of these each month just to help educate you on a little more on Florida's history.

Indian Rocks Beach, Pinellas County -- A number of large rocks along the shore gave the community its name.

Inverness, Citrus County -- The city is named by a Scotch settler for the ancient capital of the Scottish Highlands.

Islamorada, Monroe County -- It is Spanish for "purple island."

Jacksonville, Duval County -- Two of the Spanish names for the area can be translated as "pass of San Nicolas." It was also called "the place where the cows cross" by the Timucuan Indians.

Jasper, Hamilton County -- This name comes from Sgt. William Jasper, a Revolutionary War hero who rescued the American flag during the British assault on Ft. Sullivan, now Ft. Moultrie.

Key West, Monroe County -- It is the westernmost island extending from the Florida peninsula. Key West was originally called Bone Island by the early Spanish explorers because they found large quantities of human bones there. Right: the Estela Cigar Store in Key West, 1940.



My source of information
<http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/facts/> .



FEW National Training Program
Reno, NV July 18 – 23, 2005

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Jean Grenville

The Space Coast Chapter business meeting on Wednesday, May 18, 2005, at the CIAO, was well attended. We were so pleased to have several of our new members attend and hope they will continue to be involved. Nominations Chair, Karin Biega, announced the results of the election of new officers for 2005 – 2006. Officers and Committee Chairs gave a report of their activities and pending chapter business was discussed. Everyone enjoyed the refreshments that were provided.

Tuesday, June 21, 2005 – Installation and Awards Banquet: Mark your calendars for the Annual Installation and Awards Banquet at the Lobster Shanty in Satellite Beach beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Thank you for your attendance at our meetings this year. We will begin a new officer year after the installation of officers. If you have any thoughts or ideas about subjects you would like to have presented at the Program meetings, speakers you know who might be interested in presenting a program, etc. please contact Marlene Satterthwaite who will be installed in June as Vice President and will be overseeing the Program Committee.



GOVERNMENT NEWS & LEGISLATION

Marie Argana

Privatization/Outsourcing:

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) list was published on Friday, May 13th. In a nutshell, more than 18,000 Defense Department civilians will see their jobs eliminated or contracted out as part of the Pentagon's recommendations for closing and realigning military bases.

The Pentagon has proposed closing 33 major bases, realigning 22 more and making hundreds of other changes at smaller bases. Those recommendations will be reviewed by an independent BRAC Commission this summer, which will then prepare a final list for President Bush by September 8th. The president has until

Sept. 23rd to accept or reject the list before sending it to Congress, which has 45 legislative days to reject it or the recommendations become law.

The Department's proposed plan will affect 133,769 military jobs and 84,801 civilian positions at hundreds of installations nationwide. Of those jobs, 122,987 military and 66,578 civilian jobs will move to other bases, while 10,722 military jobs and 18,223 civilian jobs will be eliminated or turned over to private contractors. The Pentagon estimates its base closing recommendations will require hiring 2,818 additional contractors.

Like past base closing rounds, the Defense Department will offer civilian employees at affected bases a variety of career options, including moving to a new base, being placed on a priority list for other jobs in the area, and incentives to take early retirement.

The largest relocation of civilian jobs will occur in the Northern Virginia suburbs where thousands of Defense civilians work in leased office space. Nearly 23,000 Defense jobs, including 15,754 civilian positions, will move to more secure space at military installations, including thousands to nearby military bases, among them Fort Belvoir, VA and Fort Meade, MD. Fort Belvoir stands to gain 5,729 jobs and Fort Meade will add 2,915 civilians.

The states losing the most civilian jobs are: Virginia (8,843), Maine (4,139), New Jersey (3,713), and Texas (3,175). Those gaining the most civilian jobs are: Maryland (9,012), Indiana (2,641), Alabama (2,018) and Kentucky (1,482).

The 2005 base closing list, if adopted by the Commission, Congress and the president, will result in total savings over 20 years of almost \$49 billion, Pentagon officials said. Adding changes from closing overseas bases and bringing troops back to the US bring the total to \$64.2 billion.

Here are some of the major base changes that are closing or being realigned:

Site	Action	Net Loss of
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		Civilian Jobs
Leased space, Virginia	Close/Realign	-15,754
Fort Monmouth, NJ	Close	- 4,652
Naval Shipyard Portsmouth, ME	Close	- 4,032
Red River Army Depot, TX	Close	- 2,491
Walter Reed Army Med. Center, MD	Realign	- 2,357
Fort Monroe, VA	Close	- 1,948
Fort McPherson, GA	Close	- 1,881
Rock Island Arsenal, IL	Realign	- 1,417
Naval Base Ventura City, CA	Realign	- 1,295
Leased space, MO	Close/Realign	- 1,234

Here are some of the major base changes that are gaining employees:

Site	Action	Net Loss of Civilian Jobs
Fort Belvoir, MD	Gain	+ 5,729
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD	Gain	+ 5,371
Defense Finance and Account., IN	Gain	+ 3,378
Fort Meade, MD	Gain	+ 2,915
Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, CA	Gain	+ 2,315
Naval Shipyard Norfolk, VA	Gain	+ 1,774
Fort Knox, KY	Realign	+ 1,739
Defense Supply Ctr., Columbus, OH	Gain	+ 1,695
Fort Sam Houston, TX	Gain	+ 1,624
Redstone Arsenal, AL	Gain	+ 1,586

For the complete BRAC closing list, go to www.defenselink.mil/brac.

Employment Benefits

Twelve senators have written to a key Senate Appropriations subcommittee to urge continued support for “pay parity” raises between civil service and military personnel. Without competitive salaries, the government’s ability to recruit and retain employees “will be limited,” according to the senators. In the letter, they suggest that the government will need to hire about 250,000 government workers in the next

two years to replace departing employees and staff new programs.

President Bush has recommended a 3.1% raise for the military next year, and a 2.3% raise for the civil service. Administration officials oppose pay parity increases, in part because they say boosting raises in non-Defense agencies diverts critical money from programs and operations.

The letter was signed by Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME), Chairwoman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee; John Warner (R-VA), Chairman of the Armed Services Committee; Paul Sarbanes (D-MD); George Allen (R-VA); Barbara Mikulski (D-MD); Joseph Lieberman (D-CT); Daniel Akaka (D-HI); Richard Durbin (D-IL); Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ); Tim Johnson (D-SD); Mark Dayton (D-MN); and Olympia Snowe (R-ME)

Two bills have been introduced concerning equal pay for women. The first – S 841 – was introduced by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) and would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex. The bill currently has nine co-sponsors.

The second bill was introduced in the House of Representatives by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC). This legislation (HR 1697) would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to prohibit discrimination in the payment of wages on account of sex, race, or national origin.

On another front, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan will offer expanded dental and vision coverage to government workers and retirees beginning in the summer of 2006. In response to the Federal Employee Dental and Vision Benefits Enhancement Act of 2004, OPM will implement supplemental dental and vision programs for federal employees, annuitants and their dependents, beginning in July 2006. OPM is currently evaluating various benefit and plan design options. OPM intends to issue a request for proposals by late summer and select dental and vision carriers by the end of the year.

The dental and vision bill was approved by Congress last December and signed into law. The offerings will be voluntary, and the federal government will not make a premium contribution to them. The bill specifically ordered that the new dental and vision offerings supplement the existing options.

And for retirees, Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) has introduced a bill that would allow former government workers to recoup their pension credits when returning to federal employment. Under the Federal Employees Retirement System, employees who leave the government can get a refund of their retirement contributions. If they rejoin the government, they are not allowed to pay back the money and restore their pension.

Moran's bill – the FERS Redeposit Act (HR 1739) - would allow them to repay their cashed-out annuity and pick up pensions at the same accrual rates as if they had never left – giving them a higher annuity payment upon retirement. This so-called redeposit benefit is available to employees who work under the older Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS), and this bill would essentially extend that practice to returning FERS employees.

This legislation is similar to ones he has offered in past years, and it again faces uncertain prospects. The Office of Personnel Management usually opposes bills that make retroactive changes or corrections to long-established rules. Moran's bill may also face questions about its cost, since the government would be on the hook to pay larger pensions.

Equal Employment Opportunity

This year's Annual Report on the Federal Work Force contains a wealth of data presented in a user-friendly format that allows for comparison of agencies' EEO performances and pinpoints areas for improvement. Among some of the data included in the report:

➤ Men comprised 57.1% of the federal workforce while women comprised the remaining 42.9%, a ratio which has only changed slightly in the last 10 years. Last year, 2.6 million were employed by the federal government.

➤ Reflecting the diversity of the nation, 66.9% of federal employees were white; 18.2% were black; 7.5% were Hispanic; 5.8% were Asian or Pacific Islander; and 1.7% were American Indian or Alaskan Native.

➤ Women have made the most gains in securing senior level positions in the federal government, occupying 25.7% of those positions in FY 2004 – up from 18.5% in FY 1995.

➤ The average grade level for General Schedule federal employees (permanent and temporary) was 9.9. Hispanics (9.2), blacks (8.9) and American Indian/ Alaskan natives (8.3) all had lower average grade levels.

➤ The average General Schedule grade for women was 9.1, nearly two grades below the average grade level for men (10.7).

➤ The average General Schedule grade level for people with targeted disabilities was 8.4, nearly two grades below the government-wide average of 9.9.

The report also detailed EEO complaints. The data contained in the report show that more than 19,000 discrimination complaints were filed against federal agencies in FY 2004, and agencies took nearly 300 days on average to investigate a complaint. Some of the key findings in the report include:

➤ There were 19,024 discrimination complaints filed by 17,878 individuals (some of whom were repeat filers) – a 6% decline from FY 2003.

➤ The most frequent bases of allegations continue to be reprisal (7,782), age (5,449), race-black (5,021), and sex-female (4,613). The top issues cited in complaints continue to be harassment (non-sexual), promotion/non-selection, and terms/conditions of employment.

➤ Only about 43% of investigations by federal agencies were completed on time. A total of 11,876 investigations were completed government-wide in an average of 280 days during FY 2004 – up from 267 days the previous year.

➤ Complainants obtained approximately \$55 million in total monetary benefits which includes findings and settlements through alternative dispute resolution – as a result of EEO complaints closed by the employing agency or on appeal – down from \$61 million in FY 2003.

The complete report can be viewed at www.eeoc.gov.

Affirmative Employment

Of 66 cases reviewed last year, no federal employee was “disciplined for discrimination, retaliation, harassment, or any other infraction,” according to the Office of Personnel Management’s report recently released on the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 for fiscal year 2004.

According to the report, only six investigations were completed in FY 2004, and three are currently underway. More than two-thirds of the cases (45) were dismissed by final agency decision.

The 66 cases reviewed last fiscal year are the most ever for one year. In FY 2003, OPM reviewed 28 cases. The largest number of cases reviewed in one year, prior to this year, was 35 in FY 2000.

FY 2004 was the first year since FY 1999 when no disciplinary action was taken. The previous two years, one disciplinary action had been taken in each year. FY 2004 also ended with more cases pending (85) than ever before.

Section 203 of the No FEAR Act specifically requires, not later than 180 days after the end of each fiscal year, each federal agency to submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives, each committee of Congress with jurisdiction relating to the agency, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Attorney General an annual report with specific information relating to each agency’s Equal Employment Opportunity complaints activity.

The report may be viewed in its entirety at http://www.opm.gov/about_opm/nofear/Annual_report_2004.asp.

Retirement/Pension

Several new bills have been introduced concerning the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). First, as reported in the last newsletter, Rep. Kevin Brady introduced a bill (HR 1714) that would essentially repeal the WEP, and substitute a new and fairer formula for Social Security recipients. A companion bill has now been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (S 866).

Another bill (HR 1690) would restrict the application of the WEP to individuals whose combined monthly income from benefits under such title and other monthly periodic payments exceeds a minimum COLA-adjusted amount of \$2,500, and would provide a graduated implementation of such provision an amounts above such minimum amount. This bill was introduced by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) and has fourteen co-sponsors.

WOMEN’S HEALTH

Submitted by Vickie Hall

A Juicy Story – And a Nutritious One

When you’re thirsty, a refreshing, fruity beverage often hits the spot. Drink 100 percent juice for the greatest nutritional benefit.

Good examples include pink grapefruit juice and orange juice. Choosing juice for nutrition means reading the label. Check to be sure that the product is 100 percent juice. Read the ingredient list carefully to make sure that juice is one of the first ingredients.

As with most fruits and vegetables, the more colorful the juice, the more nutrients it contains, that may help protect against some cancers, heart disease and other chronic health conditions.

As more and more juices are fortified with calcium, you can double your benefit. But, since juices lack fiber, try to keep your intake to one serving daily.

Produced by ADA’s Public Relations Team

IDENTITY THEFT

Submitted by Marlene Satterthwaite

1. The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your checkbook, they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know how you sign your checks.

2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.

3. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks. (DUH!) You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

4. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, and credit cards. Unfortunately, I, an attorney, have firsthand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thief(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

1. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having

the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.

2. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc. were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important of all: (I never even thought to do this.)

3. Call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away. This weekend someone turned it in. It seems to have stopped them dead in their tracks.

Now, here are the numbers you always need to contact about your wallet, etc. has been stolen:

1. Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
2. Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742
3. Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289
4. Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

DID YOU KNOW?

Submitted by Clara Anderson

Did you know that each day has its own unique set of challenges and opportunities?

One of the best ways to meet and overcome the challenges that face us each day is through having a sense of humor. Henry Ward Beecher said "A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon without springs. It's jolted by every pebble on the road."

Keep your sense of humor and enjoy a smoother day!

PRODUCT SAFETY TIP

Submitted by Vickie Hall

The following information was taken from the website listed below and is provided for your information and safety. These recalls occurred in June 2005.

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Whirlpool Corp., of Benton Harbor, Mich. is voluntarily recalling about 529,000 KitchenAid® Coffeemakers. An internal electrical component of the coffeemaker can overheat and ignite, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), DRECO, Ltd., formerly known as DaeRyuk Electronics, LTD, of Korea and HSN LP (previously referred to as the Home Shopping Network), of St. Petersburg, Fla., are voluntarily recalling about 3,500 Welbilt Electronic Pressure Cookers. The lid on these pressure cookers can open prematurely while contents are under pressure, allowing hot contents to be expelled and causing a scald or burn injury to individuals in the immediate area.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prereljun05.html>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

14 Flag Day
19 Father's Day

21	Installation and Awards Banquet
21	Summer Begins

SPACE COAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Muzette Fiander

This monthly publication is a means of sharing information and ideas. Please send news articles or items of interest for this Newsletter to Muzette Fiander, TA-E1, or e-mail at Muzette.B.Fiander@nasa.gov

Please feel free to share this Newsletter with your friends. And for anyone interested, a Membership Application is attached as the last page.

Insight for the Day

Ordinary people believe only in the possible. Extraordinary people visualize not what is possible or probable, but rather what is impossible. And by visualizing the impossible, they begin to see it as possible.

- Cherie Carter-Scott

And then a little humor –

Programmer Guffaws

How many programmers does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

None, that's a hardware problem!

FAR AND WIDE

Submitted by Jean Grenville

The positive actions you take do not stop with you. Many of them go on and on, far beyond you, to people and places you will never know about.

The value you create does not end with you. It sets the stage for more positive value, and then for even more value on top of that.

Somewhere today, someone's life has just been made better because of a positive action you have taken in the past. In some way today, the world is becoming a better place because of something you did, weeks, months or even years ago.

You can never know or control how far and wide your actions will extend. You can, however, control the nature of those actions.

The more love, kindness and thoughtfulness you put into your actions, the more positively those actions will multiply and radiate out into the world. Put the best of yourself into all you do, and your own unique value will be spread far and wide.

The influence you have on life is immensely greater than it may appear on the surface. Live each moment with goodness, truth and integrity, and in more ways than you can possibly know, you'll be making the world a better place.

Ralph Marston

